

*For the Library of the Royal College
of Physicians of Edinburgh*

From the Author.

THE
CARMICHAEL AND COLLEGIATE
PRIZES.

BY EDWARDS CRISP, M.D.

R33356

A LETTER

Sent to the President and to each of the Twenty-four Councillors of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, on the late award of the triennial College Prize on the "SUPRA RENAL BODIES," (so called), to PROFESSOR HARLEY.

SIR,

I BEG to direct your attention to a letter I have placed before the Council respecting the late adjudication of the Prize on the "Supra Renal Bodies," to Professor HARLEY (April 3, three months after it was sent in) by Messrs. HILTON, QUAIN and COCK, and to the rejection of my unsuccessful Essay and preparations, which, "after three years, if unclaimed, would become the property of the College." I offered these for the Museum and Library, to use the words of my Preface, for the benefit of those who might hereafter investigate this interesting and mysterious subject, and, I added, who might perhaps profit by my errors.

But it is to the character and to the *legal* disqualifications of Dr. HARLEY's Essay, that I am on this occasion about to bring before your notice: the numerous and fundamental errors I will place before you hereafter. Had the Treatise been free from these, or if any new or original matter had been added since 1858, I should not, even under the extraordinary and unheard of circumstances of the case, have protested against the award.

According to the printed rules, "*each Essay must have a motto—all recited cases must be placed in an Appendix, and original facts are to be considered principal points of excellence.*"

Professor HARLEY has not complied with one of these injunctions, nor has he even kept to the title of the Essay, "Supra Renal Bodies."

OBJECTION 1. Professor HARLEY, besides the constant disclosure of his name by the copying of his former works, tells his colleague, Mr. QUAIN, and the other adjudicators, on thirteen different occasions, that he is the author of the Essay, by referring to his papers in the "Lancet," 1858, pp. 553—576; (these papers, copied verbatim with the drawings); to the "British and Foreign Review," 1858, pp. 204—226, 498—510; and the "Pathological Society's Transactions," 1857, 1858; all which are copied nearly verbatim, and of which the Essay is almost exclusively composed, as the manuscript analysis which I place before the Council will shew; in this analysis I have also quoted the references, so that the motto, "*I'll try*," or rather the reply to a recommendation to try for the prize (at a very late period) was entirely superfluous. I give an example or two: "For as I stated in a paper published in the 'Lancet,' 1858, (Essay p. 109,) I see no cause for altering the statement I made in the 'British and Foreign Review,' 1858, (Essay, p. 126.) This case I published in the 'Pathological Society's Transactions, 1859, (Essay, p. 163.)" One of our most celebrated provincial Surgeons, in 1841, lost the Fothergillian gold medal because he alluded to a former work, and because the Essay was in his own handwriting. I was not on this occasion an adjudicator.

OBJECTION 2. That not only is the great bulk of the treatise composed of matter copied verbatim from the papers referred to, but there are no less than 95 pages out of the 208, occupied by 44 cases which should have been in the Appendix, and some of the cases are inserted without reference to their previous publication, (pages 158 to 163,) cases that according to the rules, even if "*recited*" and *unpublished*, should have been in the Appendix. Let me ask, if these cases should have been in the Appendix, *where should the other before printed matter have been placed?*

OBJECTION 3. That the Essay is not original. A picture painted a second, third, or fourth time cannot be original. I could, with greater propriety, if a prize were offered on the Spleen or Blood-vessels, send a reprint of my works upon these subjects, because they have only been printed once, and it is scarcely necessary to add, have not been paid for. But in this competition I laboured under the disadvantage of believing that I could not freely use my former writings, upon the Renal Bodies, in my Prize Essay on the Thyroid Gland, at Guy's Hospital, (although not published,) and I did not make use of the Table of Weights or any of the drawings and recorded dissections in this Essay; but I investigated the subject with different animals and in a different manner, viz., the relative size and weight of the capsule to the kidney, &c. I have fully referred to this Essay in the Bibliography. I will send a copy of that part of the treatise relating to the Renal Bodies for the inspection of the Committee. I hope, Sir, that I have said enough to induce you to lend your aid in the formation of a Committee to investigate this matter, so that hereafter those who may try for Collegiate Prizes may understand the conditions under which they compete, and the honour likely to be gained! I have not said that a man is not to use his previous labours and researches, even if they have been published, but I am protesting against the *manner* of using them, and the *wholesale* use of them, as well as the disregard of all legal injunctions; nor do I say that my Essay deserved the Prize, *of this I am not to be judge*; it is not the question at issue. I protest only against examinations and adjudications when they are *illegally* conducted, as I have fully explained in my "Examination of a Rejected Candidate at the Royal College of Physicians," page 4; in my work on the Spleen, page 175; and in my Letter on the Carmichael Prize, *Lancet*, October 1, 1859, page 346; and *Medical Circular*, page 151.

As I am upon this subject, I think it right to call your attention to a custom that one of these adjudicators occasionally indulges in, which I think is "better followed in the breach than in the observance," especially as some of the adjudicators may not have read the treatise, but may have depended upon this gentleman's *ipse dixit*. The pointing to a particular preparation, or to mottos, or detached expressions that may not suit a fastidious taste, might be quite sufficient to condemn the Essay! In an Essay on Animal Poisons, sent to the College in 1857, the adjudicator wrote under the motto, "*unde*," crossed out the first five lines, and other parts of the introduction, &c. This rejected Essay, with the *early* marks of disapprobation, can be seen by any of the Council.

Assuming that many of the Councillors who were present when the offer of my Essay, with drawings and preparations, was rejected, were not acquainted with *all* "the circumstances of the case," I again proffer them for the use of the Members,* with the explanation appended. They

* To shew how much this subject has been neglected, the renal bodies of the lower animals in the Hunterian Museum amount only to eleven (ten mammals and one tortoise). Those of the kidneys to 55; 6 fishes; 6 reptiles; 3 birds, and 39 mammals, (Catalogue pages 115 to 128); and when the triennial prize on this subject, the Renal Bodies, was proposed six years since, I believe there was not a candidate, so that the College saved its fifty guineas. The preparations and drawings I have offered to the College, *made entirely by myself*, from animals, or parts of animals purchased during the last three years (with the exception of a few specimens, chiefly reptiles in spirits), consist of a frame containing 50 renal bodies of different species of animals in wax (from casts). A frame containing 25 of the kidneys and renal bodies in wax, and 50 wet preparations, including ten of the human fœtus, from 28 grains in weight to 6 lbs. The drawings showing the development of the renal bodies (all from nature), amount to 36, 16 human, and 26 of mammals birds, and reptiles (pp. 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 portfolio). The drawings in all amount to 365, including, with the wax and wet preparations, representations of the renal bodies ^{of kidneys} of 224 species of animals, 115 mammals, 59 birds, 36 reptiles, and 14 fishes; but the renal bodies (as now explained on the title page) are not seen in the ophidian reptiles and in the fishes. Professor HARLEY names the renal bodies in 9 animals only (as in 1858), man, mole, dog, cat, seal, rat, rabbit, sheep, and cobra. The development of these glands in the human fœtus and the Kitten, as in 1858. (Essay, pages 16 and 17, Review before cited, the same words page 209.) The preparations sent by Dr. HARLEY have, I believe, all been exhibited at the Pathological and Medico-Chirurgical Societies. Proceedings of the latter, page 19, and "Medical Times and Gazette," 1857, page 644. They consist of four wet preparations,

have not been removed from the College. I was told, in answer to my former offer, (June 4th,) that "under the circumstances of the case it was declined." What the circumstances of the case are, the present dark and hidden proceedings of the Council do not enable me to ascertain; but I ask you, Sir, whether the circumstances attending the award of this Prize are not peculiar and unprecedented?

To sum up in a few words,—Professor HARLEY, at a late period, hastily copied, himself, the writings alluded to, and says in the Preface, "should it be successful I promise to revise, as well as copy it, if the rules permit." Of the 208 pages composing the Essay (as shown by the manuscript analysis forwarded to the College), from page 1 to 116, the part strictly confined to the subject of the Prize, "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Supra Renal Bodies," only about a dozen pages are new, about ninety are copied verbatim, and fourteen nearly verbatim. In the "Pathology," from page 117 to 190, the 44 cases in the body of the work have been all published before, as have been the eleven conclusions, with a few verbal alterations, pages 191 to 193; and the one-sided statistics given, without proper reference, in the Appendix, pages 194 to 208, should, I believe, have been placed before the Pathological Society, as shown in the "Medical Times and Gazette," 1862, page, 628, "Medical Circular," page 446; and not a single animal has been dissected, nor a single experiment made for this Prize since 1858, as far as can be gathered from the Essay.

I am, SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARDS CRISP.

KING'S PARADE, CHELSEA, *July 28th, 1862*.

(including the rat, without a thymus gland), and twenty-two microscopic, (several imaginary, as I believe,) dated 1857. I reserve my remarks upon these and upon the other parts of the Essay for a future occasion.

I may be pardoned, I hope, "*under the circumstances of the case,*" for directing your attention to a few of the important and practical deductions in my Essay. The weight of the renal body to the kidney in 121 different species of animals; the kidneys and renal bodies having been all weighed by myself during the last three years. These include 86 mammals, 30 birds, and 4 reptiles.

2ndly. To the fact that in the great majority of animals these glands are not above the kidneys. So that the term supra renal capsules, employed by Dr. HARLEY, and that of supra renal bodies by the Council, are both inapplicable as applied to the majority of animals, as my drawings and preparations abundantly show. They are neither capsular nor above the kidney.

3rdly. That independently of the fact that in every instance where the structure of the kidneys is uniform, as in birds and reptiles, the renal gland partakes of the same character; the renal bodies are mostly connected with the kidney by means of the vein, and not by cellular tissue only, as stated by Dr. Harley. "In the whole animal kingdom no more intimate connexion with the kidney than is furnished by areolar tissue." That in many animals the renal vein is supplied with one or two pairs of valves, so that the blood from the renal gland is prevented from regurgitating to the kidney. My drawings and preparations (now at the College) show these in the Axis Deer, Barbary Deer, Muntjack, Roodoo, Young Giraffe, Grysboe, Rheitboe, Bontiboe, Alpacca, Thar, Mufflon, Cape Sheep, Goat, Ox, Wart Hog, Red River Hog, Japanese Boar, and Horse, all dissected during the last three years. Surely these drawings and preparations, never before seen in this or in any other country, might be of use to the College Students! they are not German myths and shadows.

The above letter was only sent to Professor Harley and to each of the Councillors, and on the 14th of August, the first meeting of the Council, I forwarded the manuscript letter quoting the 13 instances (pp 2, 9, 14, 15, 25, 28, 49, 57, 76, 109, 111, 119, 126, 163) in which Dr. Harley goes out of his way to reveal his name to his colleague, Mr. Quain, and to Messrs. Hilton and Cock. I also pointed out, page for page, the verbatim copying which constitutes nearly the entire bulk of the Essay now in the College Library.

I beg the reader's attention to the review of a supposed book on "the Supra-renal Capsules," (so called) in the *Lancet* of last month, August 16, p. 173. This laudatory notice must have been sent by Dr. Harley himself, or one of the adjudicators; for on asking Mr. Chatto, the Librarian, whether any one had seen and examined this Essay besides Dr. Harley and myself, his reply was, "no." I leave Dr. Harley to explain!

In these statistics of the Pathological Society (*Lancet*, above cited), without proper reference, Dr. Addison's eleven cases are omitted, and the thirty preparations in Guy's Museum are unnoticed (*Medical Times*, 1862, p. 628; *Medical Circular*, p. 446.) Dr. Wilks has recently stated, (*Medical Times*, March 29th.) that he was acquainted with twenty-four cases of capsular disease that had been correctly diagnosed.

The following is the reply to my letter—

SIR—I have laid before the Council of this College your letter of the 14th instant, and am desired to inform you, that the Council having decided the question referred to therein, decline to re-open it, by the appointment of a Committee, or otherwise; and with respect to the renewed offer of your Essay, with your preparations and drawings, I am directed to refer you to Mr. Balfour's letter of the 19th of June last.

I am, SIR, your obedient Servant,

E. TRIMMER, *Assistant Secretary.*

GENTLEMEN—I am at a loss to understand how you can have decided a question which had never before been referred to you. The tone of your letter, and your refusal to appoint a Committee, lead to the inference that you give your sanction to the acts of which I complain, and that your published laws and conditions are to be modified or annulled, according to the inclination or corporate bias of the adjudicators. As this matter is one materially connected with education and scientific progress, I purpose placing it with that relating to the Carmichael Prize, before the General Council of Medical Education; and, notwithstanding the laudation of the "virtue" of your College by Mr. HUTTON, one of the misappropriators of this Prize, in his concluding Lecture at the College last year, I am disposed to think that if your proceedings were open to the Medical press, that the unjust acts of which I complain, and many others that I could enumerate, would not have occurred. And I may remind you, that the College Prizes are the only ones, I believe, in the world, where the names of the adjudicators are concealed.

I am, GENTLEMEN, your obedient Servant,

August 28, 1862.

EDWARDS CRISP.

I refer the reader to the *Lancet*, 1861, p. 418, and the *Medical Times*, April, 1861, respecting the rejection of Mr. Price's Essay, "On Excision of the Joints," by the same adjudicators. The contrast may be useful; but I believe, in this instance, there was nothing illegal in the decision.

To the President and General Council of Medical Education.

GENTLEMEN.—Assuming that one of your functions is to regulate matters connected with education and scientific progress, and that the just and legal distribution of Prizes in this country is a subject that properly comes within your province, I beg to place the enclosed correspondence before you, in which the nature of one of my complaints is fully explained. I can do so more appropriately at the present time, when the Council of this College has likewise shown its disregard of law and justice, by setting your own edicts and those of the Privy Council at defiance.

The next matter that I have to bring before you relates to the Carmichael Prize on Medical Reform. Mr. Carmichael was a zealous medical reformer, as shown by his address to the Medical Association of Ireland, (*Dublin Medical Press*, 1839, p. 361.) I quote a few of his remarks.—"There should be but three licensing bodies, one in each capital of the empire, who should insure uniformity of education and equality of examination." "If Mr. Warburton's Bill does not lay the axe to the root of the evil, and deprive the several corporate bodies of the licensing power, who thus, in the abandonment of all principle shamelessly sell their honors to the highest bidders," &c., &c. "These eighteen corporations exact a miserable rivalry only in the accumulation of money."

Mr. Carmichael, in his Will, dated February, 1849, (*Dublin Journal*, 1850, page 409.) left £3,000., the interest of which was to be applied every four years to two Prizes (the first in Ireland) on Medical Reform,— (£200. and £100.) If the Essays, in 1854, were not thought worthy, the Council were allowed to postpone the grant until 1859. At this period, there were several candidates, amongst them Dr. Edwin Lee, an old medical reformer, whose views were in many respects similar to those of Mr. Carmichael and my own. (See his Letter, *Medical Times*, 1862, page 661.) Another candidate was Mr. Dale, of Plymouth, who has published his Essay; and I believe there were several others, besides myself. The Will expressly states that the Prizes are to be awarded in 1859. The Council did not award the Prizes, and they illegally deputed three of their body to adjudicate a matter that should have been decided by twenty-one. Let me show the injustice of this illegal proceeding. In my Essay, page 95, I say: "In Dublin, as is well known, many of the appointments to Hospitals have been made by direct purchase;" and I quoted Mr. Fergusson's speech in the House of Commons, August 6th, 1858,—"The system of bargain and sale at the Dublin Hospitals loudly called for a change of management." Let me ask, if these three referees had bought their appointments, or even one of them, whether my Essay was likely to be recommended for a Prize? The Council are said to have shuffled out of the award under the plea that the candidates had not complied with the programme,—a direct falsehood as far as my Essay is concerned; and the same remark will apply to the published Essay of Mr. Dale. Subjoined is a verbatim copy of the Summary to my Carmichael Essay. I again ask you to investigate these matters; and I take the liberty of commending to your notice my device and motto, which appear to me especially applicable to the present time.

I am, GENTLEMEN, Yours obediently,

EDWARDS CRISP.

King's Road, Chelsea, September 10, 1862.



Now discord reigns in Britain's favor'd clime,
 Three monstrous heads guard Med'cine's sacred shrine,
 More monstrous far than Cerberus of old,
 For twenty limbs an ugly body fold,
 And stop its progress, for when one would go
 In the right path, another holds it low,
 And Fashion, curse of science, Folly's tool,
 Measures all parchment by a golden rule.—*The Author.*

A verbatim summary of one of the Carmichael Reform Essays, pp. 107-111, the decision of the prizes having been illegally deputed to three members of the Council of the Dublin College of Surgeons. (Lancet, 1859, p. 346.) By Edwards Crisp, M.D.

SUMMARY.

That a One-Faculty of Medicine and Surgery shall be established in each of the Three Kingdoms, composed of Councillors, elected by Graduates, Members and Licentiates, of the various Universities, Colleges, and Halls by means of a balloting paper; that the individuals so elected, shall appoint a Senate for the regulation of Medical Education and Examination, under the supervision of the Privy Council.

That all who enter the Medical Profession shall pass four examinations, conducted at various periods--

The 1st a preliminary examination, in the Classics, Natural Philosophy, the lower branches of Mathematics; and the outlines of Natural History.

The 2nd Examination shall be, in Anatomy, Physiology and Chemistry.

The 3rd in Medicine, Pharmacy and Midwifery, including diseases of Women and Children.

The 4th in Surgery, and in such branches of Anatomy and Physiology as especially relate thereto

That these Examinations shall be conducted in each of the Three Kingdoms, in such place or places as the Government shall direct; and that a proper Laboratory, and dissection room shall be attached, so that the examinations may be rendered as practical as possible.

That all who pass these Examinations, shall receive the title of Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery, which alone shall qualify for practice; and that all other titles obtained at the various examining boards shall be honorary.

That as the good of the State, and the general welfare of the people, are intimately con-

needed with the progress of Medical Science,—the Government shall elect Professors in the various Capitals, giving them such salaries as will enable them to devote their exclusive attention to scientific pursuits; and that when vacancies occur, these vacancies shall be filled up by persons recommended by the representative Senate; so that the selections will not be made, as is too often the case at present, by party bias and political influence.

That after a time, all the Medical and Surgical Appointments at the Hospitals, in the Three Capitals, (not exclusively supported by private charity,) shall be competitive:—The Examiners to be composed of the Government Professors recommended by the representative Senate, and that these Examinations shall, like those for the Licentiate'ship, be conducted in public.

That the first and leading enquiry of the Examiners (as in France) shall be the Antecedents of the Candidates, what are their published works, (if any?) what practical and beneficial additions have they made to Medicine, Surgery, or the Collateral Sciences? Next, as shewn by the public examination, what are their capabilities of reasoning and of imparting knowledge to others? The first, to be decided by a thesis on some given subject; the second, by a clinical lecture upon a medical or surgical patient.

That as soon as the present arrangements can be sufficiently altered, no Examiner shall be a teacher for profit, as recommended by the late Sir A. Cooper; and that all the Examiners shall be the Professors, heretofore named, paid by the Government, and having no interest whatever in the examination fee.

CONCLUSION

In this enquiry I have endeavoured, as briefly, and at the same time as comprehensively as possible, to make my readers acquainted with the past and present history of the profession:—to put them in possession of practical facts and deductions, about which there can be no question or cavil, as they are all from *Public* documents;—to shew that there is nothing National about any of our Corporate institutions, as at present constituted;—that with few exceptions, as was well expressed by Mr. Carmichael, they have rather resembled private Clubs;—and that like the Shoe-maker in the fable, they recommend and advertise their own parchment.

In support of this evidence, I have given the opinions of men (and I could have multiplied this testimony to a great extent) that are, or have been in high position and high favor with their professional brethren; amongst these I may especially mention the donor of this prize.

I hope that I have not indulged in one unnecessary personality. As a faithful chronicler of events, I have been compelled to bring the public acts of men prominently before my readers; but, for the better elucidation of the subject, and to give force to my conclusions I have only spoken of them in their Corporate capacities; and I am especially anxious, that it should not be inferred from my remarks that I lay claim to any superior excellence or honesty;—nor must it be supposed, that if I had been in the same position as many of the individuals, whose public acts I condemn, that I might not have taken the same part that they have done. The greatest brawlers, both in Medical and general politics, have become silent as the grave, when they have entered the dark and exclusive chambers which they had so long endeavoured to open to the "Commonalty."

To quote again Mr. Lawrence's remark in 1826, "Corporate bodies have always been found the most unsafe depositories of power."

Whatever the fate of this Essay may be, I have the consolation of knowing that I have not modified, or altered my opinions, to please any body or class of men;—that many of the suggestions

here offered, are in accordance with the views of the donor of this prize; and that they were publicly expressed, before Mr. Carmichael, in his memorable and graphic speech at the Medical Reform Congress in Dublin, in 1839, enunciated his opinions upon Medical reform.

The plan I have suggested, which must be gradual in its accomplishment, would interfere with no Corporation; no vested rights (so called); Honorary, and Aeademical titles would be sought for with more avidity than at present; and the poor man, in his extremity, would be able to command efficient medical attendance:—Scientific Maps and boundaries, would not be made to suit men's pockets:—A stimulus would be given to industry and talent;—the Three Heads, now snarling and sneering at each other would gradually merge into *one*, with a smiling and honest face, the limbs having an interest in the body to which they are attached, would work for the general good:—And some of the opulent Members of the various Corporations, like old Scrooge in Dickens' Christmas Carol;—might be so rejoiced at the change;—become so liberal in spirit; that they would do, what they have never perhaps thought of before;—send for their attorneys; alter their wills; and leave money for the advancement of science and the good of humanity!

Dublin, with her vast resources for Medical and Surgical instruction, might become one of the first Schools in Europe; and the great number of Irish practitioners, who now go to Scotland for their diplomas would, as I have fully shown, be proud to call the National Faculty of Medicine of Ireland, their *Alma Mater*.—To conclude, in the words of Mr. Carmichael, "We should not then have Physicians and Surgeons traducing each other *en masse*; nor should we have the Dublin Apothecary, who aims at the rank and emolument of the general practitioner, playing off one against the other, to his own advantage."

I quote two or three passages from the body of the Essay, p. 14.

In the Provincial Association, consisting of more than Two Thousand members of all grades and qualifications,—the bonds of union were:—One portal for all;—uniformity of qualification; and a representative system of Government. And when it is known, that at the London Veterinary College, *the Council is elected by the Members at large, the feeling* of the great majority of my readers must be one of disgust and indignation, that a few men, solely by aristocratic influence, have been enabled so long to withhold this right from the thousands who have demanded it.—There will be no peace in the profession until this is conceded; and if the General Council wish the turmoil and strife that have so long, and injuriously agitated their brethren to cease; the first recommendation that they will make to the Privy Council, will be, *that every Graduate of Medicine, and every Member of a College or Hall*, (provided he is not a supporter of empiricism in any shape nor engaged in the sale of drugs and chemicals) *shall have a voice in the election of the governing body*; so that he may take some interest in the affairs of the University or College to which he belongs, and not be treated as an alien, and as a stranger.

Whether like the Frogs in the Fable, her Majesty's Government has sent them a King in the shape of a Medical Council, who like the Stork, will turn its rule to its own profit, I am unable to say; but the swallowing two sovereigns, in the shape of a registration fee, is more palatable to the House of Commons than to the bulk of the profession. It is the duty of a good Government to provide efficient medical attendance for the people; and after taxing Medical Men with a diploma stamp, it is too much to compel them to carry out these enactments with their own money. To be consistent, the Government should oblige every quack whose money it takes, and to whom it gives its patronage, to register, and pay a registration fee!!

Now, vilest compounds, are reputed cures,
For ev'ry evil that the flesh endures;
And our wise rulers give a helping hand
To secret nostrums, that disgrace the land;
Lift science with the right, then give a blow
With other palm, that quickly lays it low;
So that our Gallic neighbours, laughing say—
"The Paradise of Quacks" is o'er the way.

I trust that the reader will believe that in making these exposures respecting the Carmichael and Harley Prizes, that I have not been influenced by vindictive or by pecuniary motives. I have nothing to gain by them. On this, as on former occasions, I have thought, foolishly perhaps, that such disclosures might in some degree tend to forward the advent of what I have so long and ardently contended for, viz.: a One-Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Election by *Concours* and public Examinations, in each of the Three Kingdoms. See an abstract of my speech at the Meeting of the British Medical Reform Association, for Framing the Laws.—(*Lancet*, Jan. 21, 1837, p. 606.)